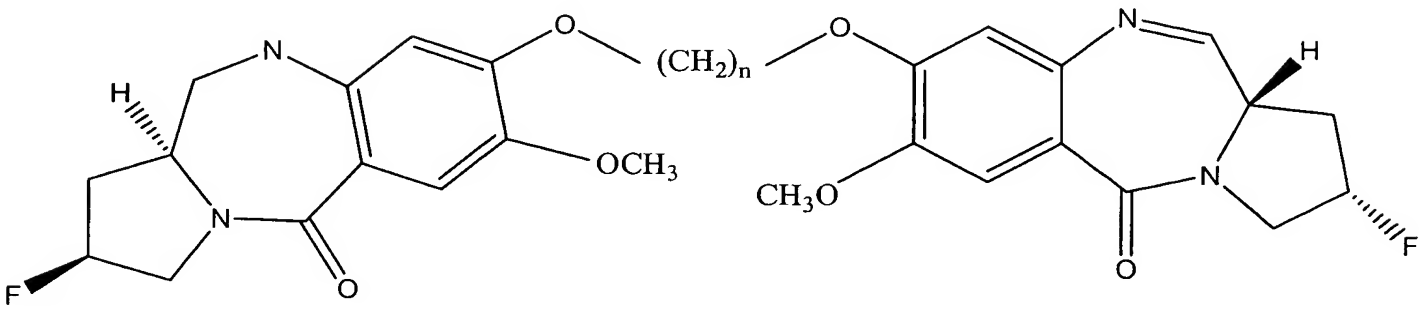
In the claims

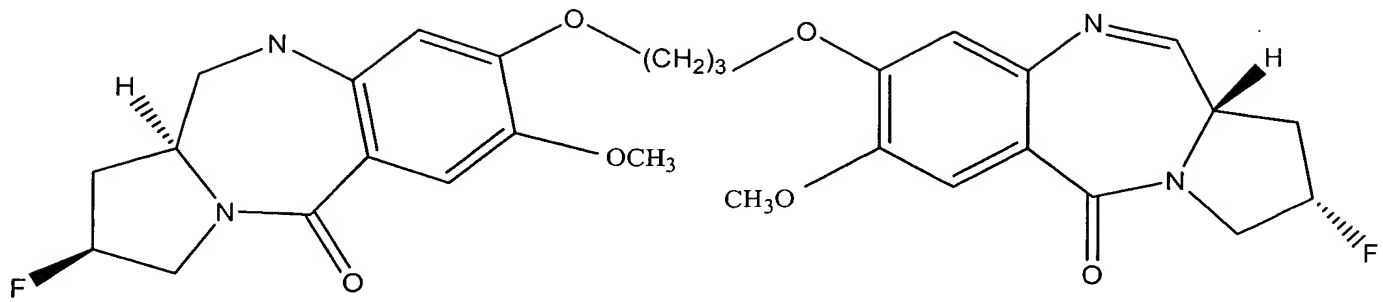
1. (Currently amended) A compound ~~novel pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine~~ of formula IX



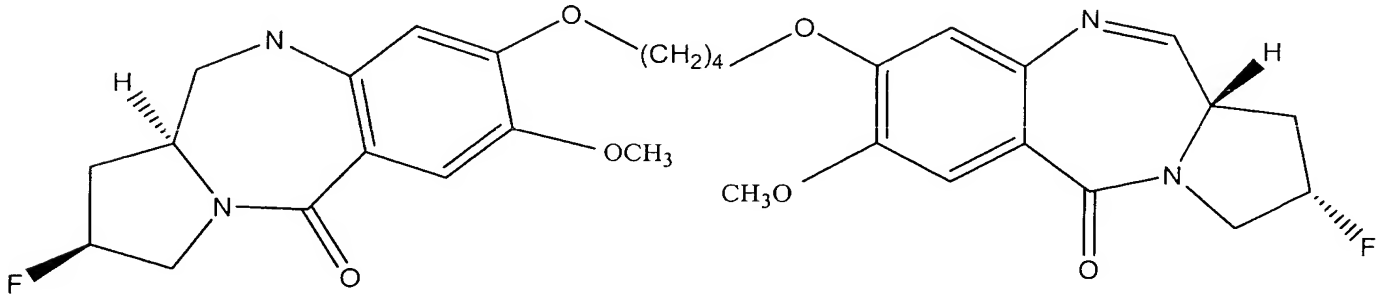
IX

where n is 3 to 10.

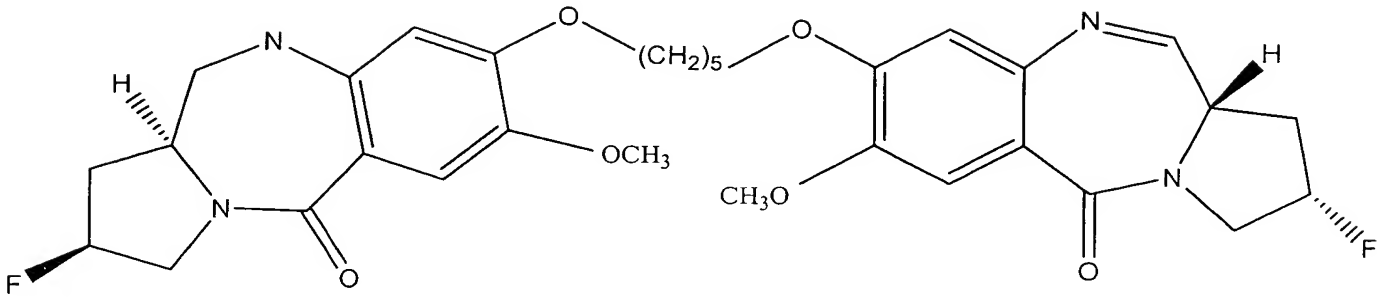
2. (Currently amended) A compound ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



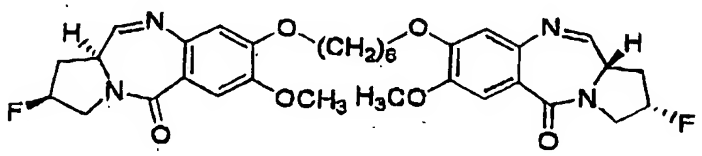
3. (Currently amended) A <u>compound</u> ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



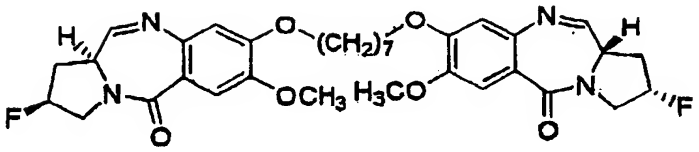
4. (Currently amended) A <u>compound</u> ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



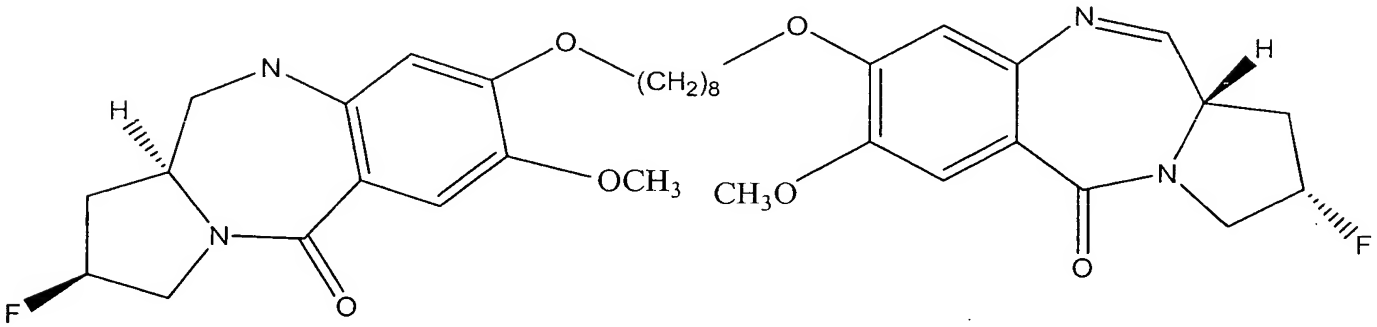
5. (Currently amended) A <u>compound</u> ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



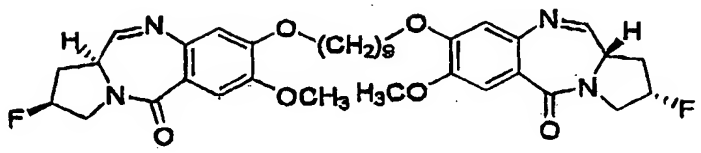
6. (Currently amended) A <u>compound</u> ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



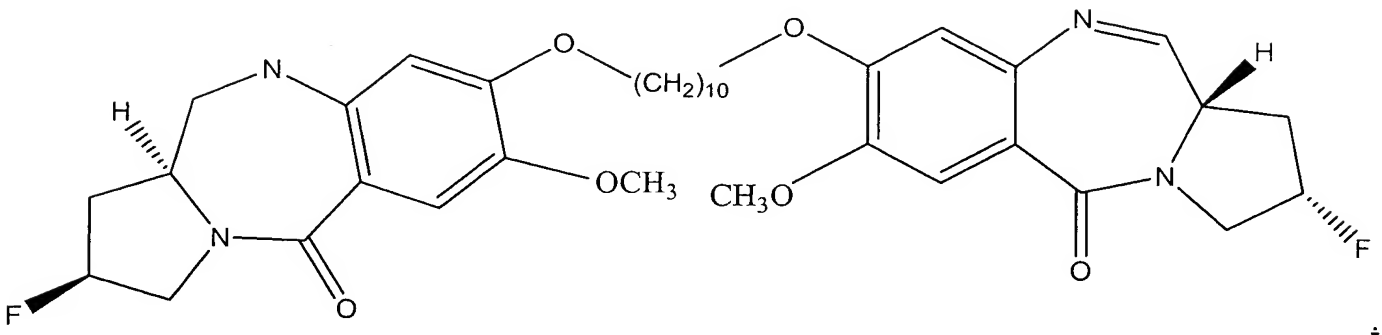
7. (Currently amended) A <u>compound</u> ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



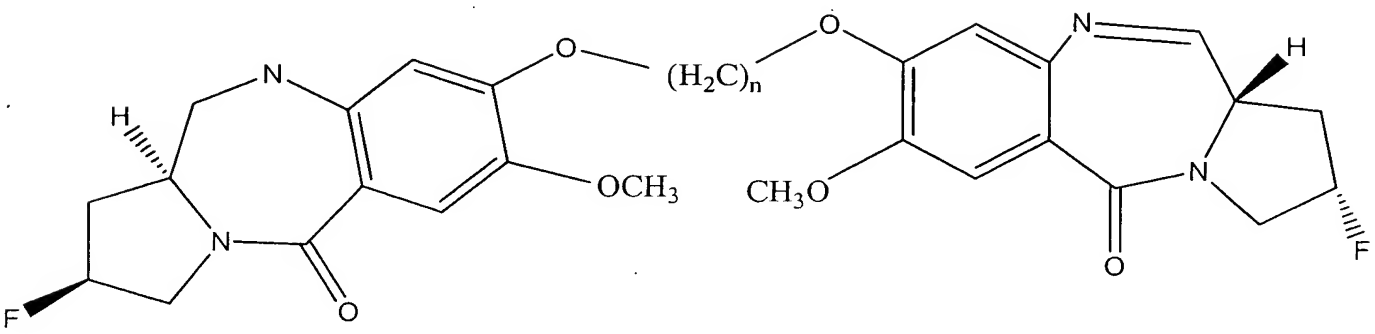
8. (Currently amended) A compound ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



9. (Currently amended) A compound ~~novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine~~ A novel pyrrolobenzodiazepine as claimed in claim 1 of the structure



10. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzo- diazepines~~ of formula IX



where n is 3 to 10, which comprises:

(a) reacting methyl (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-hydroxypyrrolidine2-carboxylate dissolved in an organic solvent,

(b) cooling the solution and adding a solution of diethylaminosulfurtrifluoride (DAST) in an organic solvent drop wise;

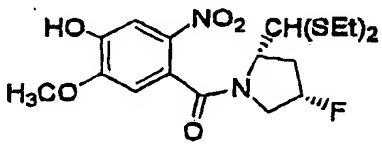
(c) isolating the methyl (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carbo xylate with DIBAL-H formed in the presence of an organic solvent and cooling;

(d) isolating methyl (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoy l]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde formed;

(e) protecting methyl (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde with EtSH in presence of an organic solvent;

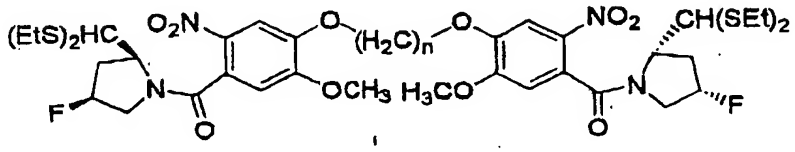
(f) isolating (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine2-carbox-aldehyde diethylthioacetal;

(g) reacting the (2S)-N-[4-benzyloxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal with a debenzylating agent to obtain (2S)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde-diethylthioacetal of formula VI,



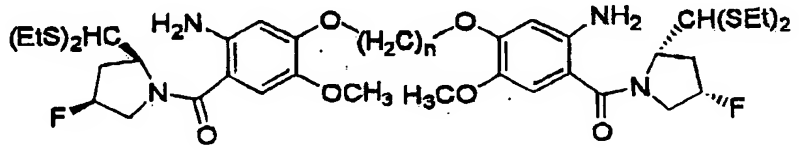
Formula VI

(h) reacting (2S)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro- 2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent and in the presence of a mild inorganic base up to refluxing temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-nitro-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]bis [4-fluoropyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal] of formula VII where n is 3-10



Formula VII

(i) reducing the compound of formula VII with $SnCl_2 .2H_2O$ in presence of organic solvent up to a reflux temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-amino-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis[4-fluoro-pyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal]] of formula VIII where n is 3-10



Formula VIII

; and

(j) reacting the compound of formula VIII with a deprotecting agent to obtain bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX wherein n is as ~~stated~~ defined above.

11. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the organic solvent used in steps (a), (b) and (c) comprises CH_2Cl_2.

12. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein in step (a) the solution is cooled to a temperature of -78^0 C.

13. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the drop wise addition in step (b) is carried out for a period of 40 min.

14. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (c) is carried out 15 hours of step (b).

15. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the cooling in step (c) is done to a temperature of -78^0 C and for a period of 45 minutes.

16. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (e) is carried out in presence of an organic solvent and at room temperature.

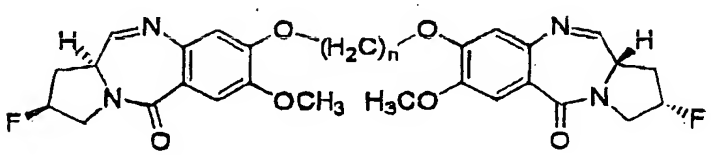
17. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the the (2S)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI is reacted with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile and DMF and in the presence of a mild inorganic base selected from the group consisting of K_2CO_3, $CsCO_3$ and $BaCO_3$.

18. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein step (h) is carried out for a period of about 48 hours.

19. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the reduction in step (i) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent comprising methanol.

20. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the deprotecting agent comprises a combination of $HgCl_2$ and HgO in CH_3CN/H_2O.

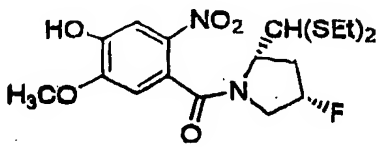
21. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzo- diazepines~~ of formula IX



Formula IX

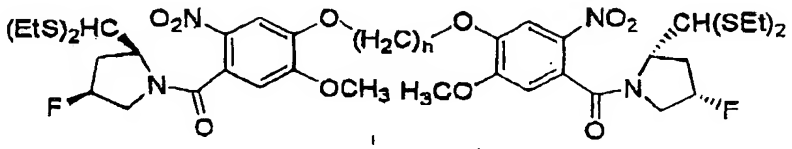
where n is 3 to 10, which comprises:

(a) (2S)-N-4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoropyrrolidine-2-carboxaldehyde-diethylthioacetal of formula VI,



Formula VI

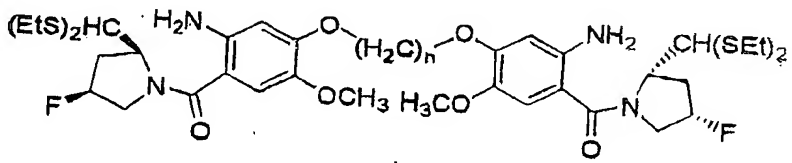
(b) reacting (2S)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-methoxy-2-nitrobenzoyl]-4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent and in the presence of a mild inorganic base up to refluxing temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-nitro-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]bis [4-fluoropyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal] of formula VII ~~where n is 3-10~~



Formula VII

where n is 3-10;

(c) reducing the compound of formula VII with $SnCl_2 .2H_2O$ in presence of organic solvent up to a reflux temperature and isolating 1,1'-{[(alkane-1,N-diyl)dioxy}bis[(2-amino-5-methoxy-1,4-phenylene)carbonyl]]bis [4-fluoro-pyrrolidin-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal]] of formula VIII ~~where n is 3-10~~



Formula VIII

where n is 3-10; and

(d) reacting the compound of formula VIII with a deprotecting agent to obtain bis 2-fluoro pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepines of formula IX wherein n is as ~~stated~~ defined above.

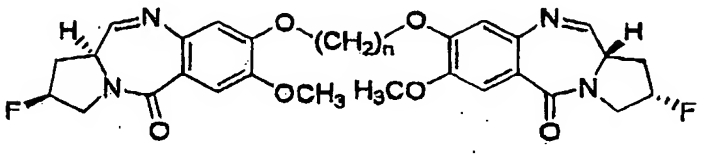
22. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the (2S)-N-[4-hydroxy-5-metho- xy-2-nitrobenzoyl]4-fluoro-2-carboxaldehyde diethylthioacetal of formula VI is reacted with a dibromoalkane in an aprotic water miscible organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile and DMF and in the presence of a mild inorganic base selected from the group consisting of K_2CO_3, $CsCO_3$ and $BaCO_3$.

23. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein step (b) is carried out for a period of about 48 hours.

24. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the reduction in step (c) is carried out in the presence of an organic solvent comprising methanol.

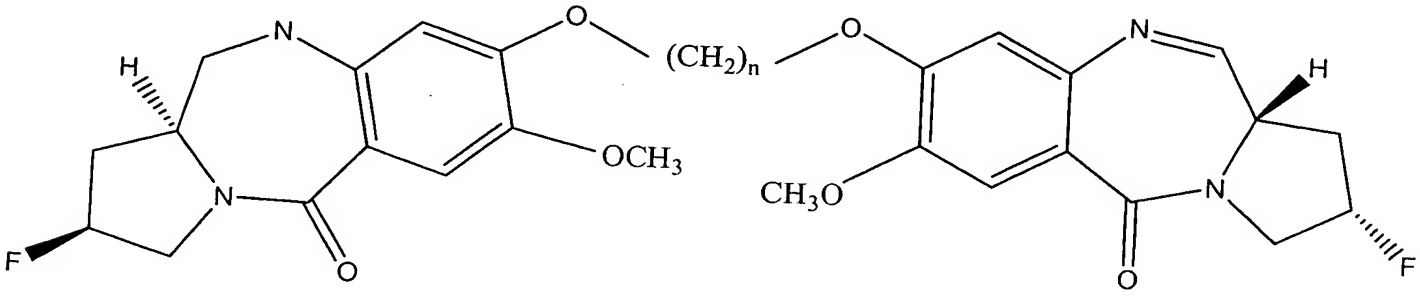
25. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 21 wherein the deprotecting agent comprises a combination of $HgCl_2$ and HgO in CH_3CN/H_2O.

26. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula IX



where n is an integer from 3 to 10 and pharmaceutically acceptable additives.

27. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the treatment of cancer in a patient in need thereof wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of leukemia, non-small cell, lung, colon, CNS, melanoma, ovarian, renal, prostate and breast ~~in a patient suffering from the same~~, said method comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula IX



wherein n is an integer of from 3 to 10.

28. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the patient is a mammal.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the mammal is a human being.

30. (Cancel)

31. (Cancel)